



Dear Parent/Carer,

You may have heard about the **Multiplication Tables Check** for **Year 4 children**. Here's what you need to know:

1. We love maths. It's an awesome subject to learn and to teach.
2. Maths is a big subject and we appreciate there's more to it than times tables and there's more to times tables than learning them off by heart. However, a lot of the rich, interesting maths is all about the multiplicative relationships and these are hard to fully grasp without fluent recall of the tables. For that reason, learning the tables is fundamental – they are a key facilitator to the maths that sits on top. We've always believed that.
3. We are already in a good place with learning the tables and the expectations are in line with the National Curriculum so it is business as usual for us.
4. The checks were to be compulsory from 2020 but have now been moved to 2021.
5. They will be done within a three-week-long window towards the end of the year.
6. The checks consist of 25 questions. The questions will only be multiplication and they will go up to 12×12 . A greater proportion of the questions will be on the higher tables. There is nothing novel about the questions and they do not require problem solving. The **Soundcheck** game on **Times Tables Rock Stars** provides good practice as it is modelled on the checks.
7. You may notice us taking even more initiative when it comes to learning the tables in class and on **Times Tables Rock Stars**, the children are engaging in challenges and competitions against their peers, other classes and even staff!

If you are practising with your child, remember you are practising for the benefit of their wider maths education, not for them to get a high score on the tests. So please enjoy the opportunity to work with your child.

If you have a question or want to offer your thoughts on any of the above, please bring them to your child's teacher.